News from Ed Markey

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE December 12, 2002

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UN MUST CONDEMN NORTH KOREAN VIOLATION

Markey Calls on Bush Admin., UN To Enforce International Non-Proliferation Law

WASHINGTON, D.C.- Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA), a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Non-Proliferation, today released the following statement in response to press reports regarding the announcement that North Korea would restart a nuclear reactor mothballed since 1994:

"North Korea's decision to restart its mothballed nuclear research reactor is a further indication that North Korea has little regard for its commitments under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, its IAEA Safeguards Agreement, and the 1994 Agreed Framework. The claim of North Korean leaders that they need the electricity to replace the heavy fuel oil shipments is specious, since this is a research reactor not a power reactor, and since we have long known that the North Koreans were using this reactor for nuclear weapons purposes.

"This latest provocation by Kim Jong II underscores the need for the Bush Administration to announce that the U.S. will, under no circumstances, deliver new nuclear technology to this nuclear proliferator in the form of the two light water reactors promised it under the Agreed Framework. It is absurd that the Bush Administration has thus far failed to clearly come out in opposition to the discredited notion of transferring two potential nuclear bomb factories to North Korea.

"The fact is that Bush Administration appears to have lost its way on the issue of curtailing the development of weapons of mass destruction. It is tough on Iraq, incoherent on North Korea, ineffective in Iran, and hypocritical at home in initiating the development of "mini nuke" weapons, plutonium pits, and other signs of our insincerity towards curtailing our own WMD technology. Let's not compound this further. "In order to restore some level of consistency and coherence to U.S. policy, the Bush Administration must immediately call upon the United Nation's Security Council to adopt a resolution condemning North Korea for its violations of international law, calling upon them to allow international inspectors into their country, and warning them of the dire consequences of continued violations of their non-proliferation commitments."

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